

Travel Plan Newsletter

20th May 2016

Dear Parents,

Children and staff have continued to work on the school travel plan since my last newsletter in January of this year.

Recent developments include a very successful year 5 cycle club which runs after school on Fridays. Sixteen of the year 5 children are now confident riding a bicycle with increased levels of stability and balance. This club is very popular and therefore hugely oversubscribed. We thank the children for their patience in waiting their turn.

The purchase of ten scooters for children to use during playtimes in the upper school playground has greatly enhanced the wide variety of activities already on offer to children in their play and lunchtimes. Grove now has a number of skilled ‘scooterists’ in years 5 and 6.

A greater number of our educational visits are now reached by public transport. Most recently, Year 3 caught the bus for their visit to Sandwell Valley and Year 5 went into the City Centre by bus to visit the council house. Not only is this helping to reduce pollution and the emission of greenhouses gases into the atmosphere, but also to keep the cost of local visits to a minimum.

Thank you again for all the wonderful entries for our zig zag campaign. Parents can view the finalists on the school website. A huge well done to Amina in Year 6 and Faez in Year 3 whose winning entries can now be seen attached to the railings of both the upper and lower school buildings. An excellent reminder to motorists to keep the zig zags clear. Following disappointing notification from the Highways Agency that our zig zags were adequate and therefore not going to be re painted and I am pleased to report that they have recently been refreshed due to a change of heart on the part of the Highways Agency. This is due to some excellent persuasive letters written by year 6 pupils to Councillor Waseem who visited school in February. Councillor Waseem was very impressed by the very high standard of writing.

Next week is ‘Walk to School Week’. I am aware that many of our children and families do already walk to school but school is keen to continue the work started during road safety week in urging motorists to avoid stopping on the yellow zig zag lines outside school and ensure they stop in a safe place where children will not be hurt. The other focus of our curriculum during the week will be teaching the children about the benefits of a healthy and active lifestyle.

Staff have planned many interesting activities for the children this week including:

Nursery and Reception:

The children will work with staff to complete a daily pictogram to show how they travelled to school. During mat and chat sessions and circle time they will be discussing the benefits of walking to school. The children will be making posters which will be put up around school persuading others to walk to school.

During outdoor provision and PE children are taking part in physical games role-playing their journey to school and using positional language.

Year 1 and 2:

Children in years 1 and 2 will be focusing on the importance of a healthy diet and exercise and through a range of practical activities, explore the effects of exercise on our bodies.

Year 3:

During circle time, year 3 children will be reminding themselves of the importance of road safety when walking to school. The children will be taking ‘selfies’ with their parents as they walk to school to stress the importance of different aspects of road safety in the streets around Grove. Year 3 parents will be able to email these photographs to school which will be incorporated into some written work on road safety.

Year 4:

The focus for Walk to School Week is maths and geography. The children will be using maps of the local area to investigate different routes to school from their homes and the distance travelled via these different routes. The children will also be drawing graphs to show how the different year groups travel to school.

Year 5:

Children in year 5 will be designing their own scratch game based on walking to school safely. They will be writing a newspaper report about walk to school week and in maths will be completing a number of data handling activities including creating graphs, analysing information and making up their own questions.

Year 6:

In year 6 the children will be set a range of mathematical problems. Looking at their route to school, the distance they travel each day and the number of steps they take, the children will be calculating how many more steps they need to take each day to achieve the recommended daily number of steps for optimum health benefits. They will also be creating a persuasive leaflet outlining the positive impact on health of an active lifestyle.

Look out on the school website for examples of children’s work from across the school under the pupils/ travel plan tab.

Staff will be completing a daily hands up survey in each class of how many children walked to school. Prizes will be awarded in each double year group at the end of the week for the class with the highest percentage of walkers.

Finally, look out for staff as you walk to school each day. They will be popping up on the roads around school and awarding stickers to children they see walking to school.

Yours sincerely.

Miss E. Mills

Deputy Headteacher